DEMOCRATIC
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GAS CHAMBERS? Out of Date!
Nazi Generals Get ATOM BOMBS

The nazi generals who command the West German Wehrmacht will soon have nuclear weapons at their disposal, unless this is prevented by a world-wide storm of protest.

This was made clear in the course of a stormy four-day foreign affairs debate in the West German Parliament which opened on March 20th.

Chancellor Adenauer, Defence Minister Strauss, and all other speakers for the government coalition claimed that the equipment of the new Wehrmacht with atomic weapons was inevitable. "The building of rocket batteries in our country is a safety precaution" stated Defence Minister Strauss. "We must have a deterrent against the spread of Communism. The atom bomb is not immoral. We must place the deterrent effect of atomic weapons for large and small wars at the service of politics."

Chancellor Adenauer claimed that if West Germany were not equipped with nuclear weapons, the NATO would become useless. "Only the possession of nuclear weapons can guarantee West Germany against the danger of atomic death."

All government spokesmen rejected plans to form an atom-free zone in Europe, and all plans to withdraw foreign troops or otherwise neutralise Germany.

Opposition spokesmen from the Social Democratic Party and the Free Democratic Party were howled down by government supporters when they drew comparisons between the present decision on atomic weapons and the granting of dictatorial powers to Hitler in March 1933. The opposition members urged renunciation of atomic weapons, and serious consideration of the Rapacki Plan and all other plans designed to relax tension in Germany and central Europe.

Debate Summary

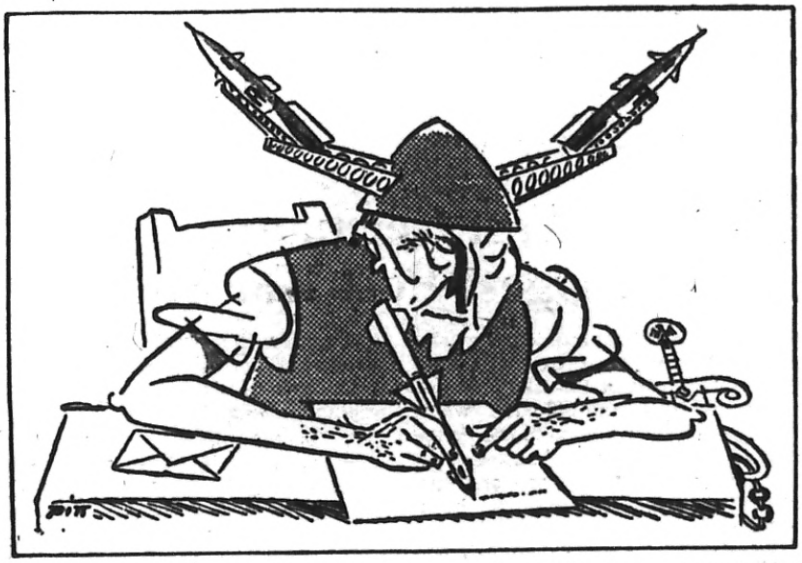
Here is a short summary of points made by members of the West German parties, both government and opposition, during the three-day debate:

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Christian Democrat: "If the important countries in NATO are not equipped with atomic weapons and rockets, then NATO itself will become unimportant and useless. If the Federal Republic were to refuse to participate in these developments in armament techniques, then the Federal Republic will, for all practical purposes, have left NATO." Only the possession of nuclear weapons could guarantee West Germany against the danger of atomic death.

Foreign Minister Heinrich Brentano, Christian Democrat: "There is no sign that the Soviets are prepared to negotiate on the question of German reunification. They cling stubbornly to their theory that there are two German states. We must say 'no' to the proposal that the summit conference should discuss the question of

(cont on next page)

Teutonic Knight Adenauer Writes a Letter



"Dear Mr Rapacki, your plan for an atom-free zone in Central Europe is a threat to West German security . . ." (Cartoon: "Neue Ruhr-Zeitung" · Text: GERMAN REPORT)

(cont. from front page)

From Gas Chambers to Atom Bombs

European security, if the problem of German reunification is not discussed simultaneously. As long as Germany is divided European security can only be endangered by thinned-out zones and the withdrawal of troops".

Dr Erich Mende, Free Democrat: "Are we Germans only capable of saying 'no' to all proposals? The road to reunification must begin with a clarification of the military status of the whole of Germany, and the question of free elections only comes at the end of this road. Anybody who really wants reunification must be ready to discuss the present system of military blocks. Anybody who thinks that the Soviet Army will withdraw from East Germany while foreign troops still stay in West Germany is a hopeless idiot".

Dr Adolf Arndt, Social Democrat: "This is a debate about atomic armament, and the Social Democratic Party must clearly express its opposition to such arms. We cannot make a contribution to the summit conference by demonstratively arming the Federal Army with nuclear weapons".

Fritz Erler, Social Democrat: "As I listened to the words of Chancellor Adenauer and Defence Minister Strauss I could not help recalling a meeting in Berlin at which the man who brought misery to the German people cried 'Do you want total war?'" (After these words the Christian Democratic members marched out of parliament, returning after Erler had finished speaking.) "In the past Adenauer has declared that in the interests of peace, the German Federal Republic would renounce atomic weapons. Now the Federal Army is being equipped step by step with nuclear weapons, and there is a very real danger that the Federal Republic will begin to produce these weapons at a future date. Now the Defence Minister wants to import 'Matador' rockets, which can only be used with atomic war heads, and which, with their range of 600 miles, cannot be described as local defence weapons."

Reinhold Maier, Free Democrat: "I would not trust Defence Minister Strauss even with a small cannon. Anyone who talks like him is ready to shoot. His speech was simply a war speech. Today we have been listening to a Reich War Minister."

Dr Richard Jaeger, Christian Democrat: "It is no secret that atomic weapons have been stationed in the Federal Republic for the past four years. The Federal Army is now going to be equipped with h-bombs, and technicians are trying to make atom bombs as small as possible."

Dr Ferdinand Friedensburg, Christian Democrat: "Ou task is to protect our country and a large part of the world from Bolshevism."

Helene Wessel, Social Democrat: Turning to a right-wing deputy who had said that God would prevent a new war, Frau Wessel said: "Your belief in the atom bomb appears to be greater than your belief in God". She stated that the present debate reminded her of the session of the Reichstag in March 1933, at which dictatorial powers were voted for Hitler. "The Social Democrats said 'no' to these dictatorial powers then: today, at another turning-point in history they say 'no' to atomic armament."

Wolfgang Doering, Free Democrat: "Many of the speeches we have heard on this date may help to contribute to the outbreak of a new war."

Carlo Schmid, Social Democrat: "Some of the speeches we have heard during this debate would have been more suitable in a rally of the 'Steel Helmets' (right-wing militarist organisation). There is only one path that we can take, and that is the path of negotiations. The Rapacki Plan for an atom-free zone could provide a good basis for negotiations."

Helmut Schmidt, Social Democrat: "You on the government benches want to maintain peace by preparing for atomic war. A lot of speeches have been made here reminiscent of Kaiser Wilhelm. Remember that Kaiser Wilhelm became a prisoner of his own programme of rearmament and his provocative speeches, which finally led to war. You want to start with nuclear anti-aircraft rockets: you will finish up with h-bombs. Abandon your German-nationalistic megalomania!"

83% Reject Atom Bombs

More than three-quarters of all West German adults reject the idea of siting atom-rocket bases in West Germany, according to a public opinion poll conducted last month by the Emnid Research Institute.

83% of all adults queried rejected atom-rocket bases, and 79% rejected rocket-bases altogether, even if they were only suitable for conventional rockets.

A breakdown according to political allegiance showed that opposition to atom-rockets was highest in the ranks of the Social Democratic Party (90%), but that opposition was also strong in Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union (71%).

Who Murdered Whom?

Carlo Schmid, Social Democrat: "Herbert Schneider (German Party) has declared in this debate, that what was done in the name of the German people in the Second World War was a 'mistake'. It was not a mistake, it was a crime. Millions of Poles were murdered. At the University of Warsaw alone 237 professors were murdered."

Herbert Schneider, German Party: "And how many Germans did they murder?"

West Germany Has Biggest Post-War Strike

More than 300,000 municipal workers throughout West Germany and West Berlin struck for 24 hours on March 19th in a bid for wage increases to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Tram and bus services came to a complete stop, and the strike was reported to have been 100% everywhere.

Negotiations following the strike produced considerable wage increases for the municipal workers, though the increase granted was only about two-thirds of the increase originally demanded.

The 200,000 workers of the iron and steel industry in the Ruhr are scheduled to ballot on strike action at the end of March. Their union is urging all round ten-percent wage increases: the employers have offered increases of less than four percent.

"FIGHT ATOMIC DEATH"

Union Leaders, Social Democrats, Clergy, Appeal for Atom-Free Zone

Leading political, trade union, religious and cultural figures in West Germany have launched a new campaign against nuclear weapons. The main signatories include the leaders of the Social Democratic and Free Democratic Parties, the Trade Union Federation, and outstanding individuals such as Pastor Martin Niemoeller, President of the Evangelical Church; Erich Kaestner, leading writer; and Professor Max Born, Nobel Prize scientist.

The appeal launching the campaign stated:

"The German people on both sides of the zonal frontier are condemned to certain atomic death in case of a war between East and West. There is no protection.

"This threat can only be increased by participation in the atomic arms race and the provision of German territory for launching bases for atomic weapons.

"The aim of German policy must be to relax tension between East and West. Only such a policy can serve the security of the German people and the national existence of a free and democratic Germany.

"We call upon the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government to refrain from participation in the arms race with atomic weapons, and to support all efforts to establish an atom-free zone in Europe as a contribution to relaxation.

"We call on the entire German people, without distinction of class, religion or party, to oppose an arms policy which is a threat to life, and to press instead for a policy of peaceful development."

COUNTRYWIDE ACTION AGAINST BOMB

The campaign against nuclear weapons and rocket bases in West Germany has reached very large proportions in the past few weeks. Here are just a small selection of news items on local actions against the bomb and rocket threat:

Kassel. The annual district conference of the Social Democratic Party called on the Social Democratic Central Board to support the Rapacki Plan for an atom-free zone in central Europe.

Auernzell. The local Social Democratic Party group passed a resolution of protest against atomic weapons for the West German Wehrmacht, and against rocket bases in West Germany.

Wuerzburg. The annual district conference of the Social Democratic Party protested unanimously against a-bombs in West Germany and especially against the construction of rocket ramps at Miltenberg.

Heuchelberg. Inhabitants of this village have formed a "Defend Our Homes" Committee and called on workers to down tools on a nearby US rocket base. The town council of nearby Klingenberg has protested against the establishment of the base.

Lambrecht. The local Social Democratic Party has called for extra-parliamentary action against atomic arms, and urged the German people "to active resistance against the terrible dangers facing us".

Heidelberg. 1700 students and professors of Heidelberg University have signed a protest against a-bombs and rocket bases.

Burghausen. South Bavarian Social Democrats in annual conference protested unanimously against nuclear weapons on German soil.

Bonn. Forty-four university professors from all parts of West Germany called on the West German trade unions to use all methods to prevent Germany "being caught up in the deadly net of atomic armament policy".

Dusseldorf. The Ruhr Metal-workers Trade Union protested against atomic arming in the name of 36,000 union members.

Bavaria. The Bavarian District conference of Municipal Workers passed an anti-nuclear arms resolution in the name of 135,000 organised unionists.

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EAST AND WEST

By Julius Silverman, Labor M. P. for Aston, Birmingham

Re-unification of Germany poses some very thorny problems. The removal of Germany from both of the Power Blocks is one of these. Then there is the question of the control and limitation of armaments in Germany itself. There is also the question of the social system of the new Germany. Is the East German Government and its system of social ownership of the means of production to be scrapped and everything to be merged under a larger Adenauer system? Or is there going to be a federated Germany where two social systems still operate? How is the new all-German Government to be chosen and who is going to supervise free all-German elections? Will this be done by the Germans themselves or some international organisation? There is too the question of the Oder-Neisse line, the present de facto boundary of Germany. Will the political parties of Western Germany be prepared to recognise that boundary and will the Western Powers be prepared to guarantee this? Without such agreement and such a guarantee, re-unification of Germany will not come about.

All these are very difficult problems in which the positions of the Great Powers are wide apart. A major political agreement upon all these issues is extremely difficult and is not likely to be made in the near future. It is not on the agenda for 1958, nor do I think it will be for 1959. For that reason I am glad Mr. Bulganin did not include re-unification of Germany as an item on the agenda for the Summit Conference. I can see no prospect of an agreement upon this in the near future and it is much better to confine Summit Talks at the present time to issues upon which there can be agreement, and in which the position and interests of the Great Powers are not too far apart. If there is agreement upon such matters this could create a lessening of international tension, a greater atmosphere of mutual confidence and produce a position in which the re-unification of Germany can eventually come about.

One of the matters which can be discussed is the Rapacki plan which proposes that there shall be no nuclear weapons in Eastern or Western Germany, in Poland, Czechoslovakia or Hungary. This seems to me a sensible basis for negotiations. Once you have got nuclear weapons in East and West Germany the gulf will be widened and the possibility of re-unification will become more remote. Apart from this there is the danger of the physical destruction of the whole of Europe. There could also be an agreement to limit foreign troops in all these countries coupled with a system of control and inspection. If this is developed it could be the basis of a much wider scheme of disarmament, always providing this is done in good faith.

I am quite sure that it is on issues like these that the Great Powers should concentrate.

It has been said by Mr. Krushchov and others that the agreement for re-unification of Germany is a matter for the Germans themselves and that there ought to be discussions between the East and West German authorities. Up to a point this may be true but it is quite obvious that there is not likely to be re-unification of Germany, except as part of a broad agreement and settlement of difficulties between the Great Powers. The re-unification of Germany and the way it takes place is of vital interest to the East as well as the West.

One further point: at the last foreign affairs debate in the House of Commons speakers from both sides of the House spoke of the necessity for recognising the German Democratic Republic. The attitude of the British Government and other governments upon this issue is completely unrealistic and valuable commercial contacts and opportunities are being lost by this stupid policy, whose primary intention is to conciliate Dr. Adenauer. The German Democratic Republic is a fact, just in the same way as the Chinese People's Republic is a fact and one does not escape facts by burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich. It is said that the Government of the German Democratic Republic is not representative of the people in Eastern Germany. I do not know whether this is so or not. If every country where the government is said to be unrepresentative of the people, were not to be recognised, a very large number of the nations in the United Nations would have to be thrown out. I know of no British interest which is served by refusing this recognition and I am sure that it would contribute towards the eventual solution of the German problem.

("Berliner Zeitung", East Berlin, March 11th)

"A few more cuts Dr Adenauer, and you'll be that neutral zone you dislike so much!"
("Evening Standard" London)

EAST GERMAN CHILDREN BID FAREWELL TO PARTING SOVIET TROOPS

„Here's my address. Send me a copy of the photo"

Almost every day, trains loaded with guns, tanks, lorries and soldiers are leaving East Germany, taking home Soviet soldiers for demobilisation.

When the big-scale withdrawal ends next month, the number of Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic will have been reduced by 41,000 men. Since 1955 84 complete battalions of Soviet soldiers have been withdrawn from East Germany and demobilised.

The pictures on this page show the scenes at Rostock railway station when an artillery unit, complete with all its guns, left for home on March 17th. During the Second World War this unit fought its way from Kursk to Berlin, where it took part in the final battle round Hitler's Chancellery.

As the pictures show, the send-off was informal and very cordial.

"A souvenir? Take one of my stars . . .

From captain to private in 30 seconds . . .

. . . this is do-it-yourself demobilisation!"

(Photos GERMAN REPORT)

Composer Alan Bush

By Mary Wolfard

One of the unscheduled results of the visit of the noted British composer Alan Bush to the German Democratic Republic is that some new songs will be sung in the 1958 May Day parades in Weimar and in Berlin. It came about this way.

Mr. Bush is mainly here to conduct performances of his latest opera, "Men of Blackmoor", in Jena. This opera, which received its world premiere and had a successful season in Weimar last year, is this season being presented at Jena. And while in the Weimar area, Bush, who is well known in Britain for his working class songs, was asked by the Franz Liszt School of Music in Weimar to give a short course on the composition of such songs for amateur choirs here. The result was that two songs setting to words the music of two Weimar writers — Armin Mueller and Anneliese Paul — are already in the hands of Weimar choirs.

Then when Mr. Bush came to Berlin to conduct a symphony concert mainly of British music including Walton's 'Cello Concerto and Bush's own orchestral study of a "Fighter for Peace", he was asked by the German School of Music here to conduct a similar course as a result of which new songs are expected to be heard in the Berlin May Day parade too.

While in Berlin, Mr. Bush also attended a meeting of composers and writers. These meetings take place regularly and are really a sort of song workshop. Writers read lyrics which they think suitable for setting to music and these are discussed and — sometimes — improved. The composers play their pieces which are likewise discussed and — sometimes — improved. At the particular meeting where Mr. Bush was present, he was gratified to hear that several of his own songs written over the past thirty years are being recorded for performance on the radio, including one in French on the sinking of the French fleet in Toulon during the last war.

As Mr. Bush is a Professor of Musical Composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London, I asked him his impressions of music teaching and music students in the German Democratic Republic and he told me that, as everywhere, the quality of both training and students varies, but one way in which the students in the German Democratic Republic are overwhelmingly better off than their British counterparts is in their social conditions.

"Students here" said Mr. Bush, "have no fees or practically no fees to pay, and get free board and lodging in the form of a grant. They are therefore able to give all their energies to their studies."

Mr. Bush added that the situation in Britain was quite different, as many students were forced to take jobs in the holidays, and some, without the knowledge of the authorities, even during term time.

"Here in the German Democratic Republic" Mr. Bush went on, "music students are assured of a job when their studies are completed, whereas in Britain this is unfortunately not the case, and a high percentage of trained musicians never enter the profession at all."

Alan Bush had nothing but praise for the facilities for amateurs to study all branches of music, from composition and harmony to any musical instrument. Evening courses are available in the People's Music Schools throughout the country, so that practically everyone — except perhaps those who live in very isolated villages — can study any musical subject they wish. And to this Mr. Bush attributed the fact there is such a flourishing amateur musical life here embracing all kinds of orchestras and musical groups and very many choirs which tackle such works as Handel's "Judas Maccabeus" or Haydn's "The Seasons".

STUDENTS: EAST & WEST

Schools, universities, science and research receive far and away more support in the Zone (German Democratic Republic, ed.) than here. What can we show, for example, to compare with the statement made by State Secretary Girnus at the recent University Conference that in the German Democratic Republic nearly 90 per cent of all students receive stipends, at a total cost to the state of 156 million marks, and that here — despite the "economic miracle" and a population almost three times as great — only 30 million marks are spent on stipends?

The situation in our universities is simply shattering. Lecture halls are full to overflowing because of a shortage of new buildings, students have to sit on the steps and even then there is sometimes only standing room — although here in the Federal Republic the number of students per head of the population is only half that in the Eastern Zone. There are a hundred lecturers too few in the West Berlin Free University. There is an average of one lecturer to 280 students in West Germany. It is often said that the lack of university professors is due to low salaries; it is at any rate true to say that professors in the Eastern Zone are in general better paid than in the Federal Republic.

A Middle German student gets a stipend of 230 to 300 marks a month. It is possible to live on this money, although textiles, shoes and so on are much dearer than here. But on the other hand, even if the student is not living in a hostel, he pays much less rent. Students' rooms, rented privately for 50 to 70 marks a month in West Germany, are much cheaper in East Germany. Students in the Eastern Zone do not have to bother about study material, which is largely provided free of charge.

Here in West Germany only 14 per cent of the students receive stipends. This is the figure given in statistics. But 12 per cent of all students in the Federal Republic receive no more than 50 marks a month to live on...

The future has not begun in the Federal Republic, which limps hopelessly far behind developments in other countries. And the most striking fact is that in the applied sciences even Pankow is far ahead of us.

If things do not soon take a turn for the better, the prospect of reunification must at least in this respect cause grave misgivings.

What do teachers, scientists and students who have fled from the German Democratic Republic say about this? "We were much better off over there. If it had not been for the unbearable political pressure, we should still be there!"

That is the situation. It is high time to draw the correct conclusions from it.

(Press Service of the West German Social Democratic Party)

W. BERLIN—OUTPOST OF FREEDOM?

Documentary Evidence Throws Doubt on Claim

Scarcely a week passes without some western statesman referring to West Berlin as an "outpost of democracy" or a "bastion of the free world".

Evidence which would seem to throw considerable doubt on these claims has just been published in the English language by the Committee for Germany Unity in East Berlin.

The evidence is marshalled in a 60-page booklet entitled "West Berlin—Stronghold of Reaction". The booklet opens with a summary of the way in which present city administration is honeycombed with former high-ranking nazi officials. After the war nazi officials were sacked, but by a law passed in West Germany in 1951, which also applies in West Berlin, these officials have been taken back into service again. The booklet quotes an official West Berlin document of September 1956 showing that on that date well over 20 % of all leading West Berlin civil servants were men who had been previously sacked for their pro-nazi record. The percentage of such old nazis varies very much in different branches, ranging from only 14 % in the Youth & Sport Department up to a staggering 100 % in the Cartographical Department. In the important Internal Affairs Department and in the Police Department the proportion of former nazis is 27 %. By summer 1957, the last date for which figures are available, at least 18,000 nazi civil servants had been reinstated with their former rank in the West Berlin administration, the booklet states.

The reinstatement policy has not been confined in any way to "nominal" or "fellow-travelling" nazis. This is particularly clearly seen in the police force. Here are some of the details given in the booklet:

Hans Jueterbog, today head of Department I of the Police Headquarters, the department which deals with political offences, was formerly member of the personal bodyguard of Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief. Himmler presented him with a gold watch in token of his good services.

Heinz Mueller and **Bruno Reichert,** today officers in the criminal investigation department, were formerly captains of Himmler's black-uniformed SS guards.

Werner Menzel, chief inspector in the criminal investigation department, former lieutenant colonel in the black-uniformed SS.

The position in the West Berlin judicial system is similar. Here are just a few of the details given in the booklet:

Dr Hinke, today judge in the West Berlin Court of Appeal. During the nazi period he passed death sentences on numerous Frenchmen, Italians and Czechs for anti-nazi activities.

Dr Domann, today a public prosecutor in West Berlin. Under Hitler he was prosecutor in a nazi "People's Court" specially constituted to try charges of resistance activity. He pressed through death sentences against a number of French and German resistance fighters.

Dr Arthur Neumann, today Senate President of the West Berlin Social Court. Long-time member of the nazi party who served during the war as a senior military court official in occupied Poland and France and was involved in many death sentences on anti-nazis.

The booklet names a total of 23 former nazi judges and prosecutors now working in the judicial system in West Berlin.

Half of the booklet is devoted to these details of the renazification of West Berlin. The remaining half is devoted to the renewed persecution of those Germans who fought against Hitler, and who have continued to oppose fascism and militarism in the post-war period.

Immediately after the war, special provisions had been made for looking after anti-nazi fighters: pensions were provided for those incapacitated and for their dependents. Ever since 1950, however, these rights have been whittled away by the authorities. Pensions and compensation are refused on principle to those West Berliners who are said to be "supporters of a totalitarian system". This category has been judged to include members of the Socialist Unity Party, the Democratic Women's Federation, and the Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime. In many cases persons have been struck from the compensation lists because they collected signatures for the Appeal Against the A-Bomb, or protested against the revival of militarist organisations.

The booklet cites a number of decisions by West Berlin courts ruling that nazi courts were justified in sending political opponents to concentration camp. There is the case of Erich Grosse, for instance, who was jailed for eight years by a nazi court on charges of high treason. The post-war West Berlin court decision stated: "He was legally punished (in 1937) by a legally conducted court trial: this cannot be regarded as national socialist injustice".

In another case cited, a widow claimed a pension because her husband, sent to concentration camp for anti-nazi activities, was killed when the nazi prison ship "Cap Arcona" was sunk in the last days of the war. The West Berlin court ruled that she was not entitled to a pension since his death was due not to nazi persecution but to "an accident of war".

Altogether the booklet gives 23 pages of facts showing how persons formerly active in the anti-nazi movement are persecuted in West Berlin today.

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GERMAN REPORT has obtained a number of copies of the English-language edition of this booklet for distribution to readers. We shall be glad to send copies free and post-free to all those interested. When ordering, please. state how many copies are required.

Orders should be sent to

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Leipzig Orchestra For Britain

The Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestra, one of the most famous orchestral groups in East Germany, will visit Britain in the second half of April to give a series of concerts. The first concert will be given in London on April 16th.

Polio Shots for E German Tots

East German children will receive Salk polio injections this spring for the first time. Since the quantity of vaccine is limited, a start will be made with the two, three and four year olds, the age groups most menaced by infantile paralysis. The vaccine will be imported from Switzerland, as none is yet produced by the East German pharmaceutical industry.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Regular readers will probably remember the strange case of Canadian Captain D. J. Goodspeed, dealt with on this page in our issue of January 3rd this year.

To recapitulate briefly: this gentleman published an article in the October 1957 issue of "General Military Review" calling for the organisation of military coups d'etat against the socialist states. He prescribes "a judicious assassination or two" as a good preliminary to such a counter-revolutionary rising, and advises the insurgents to "err on the side of ferocity" in disposing of government supporters.

This bloodthirsty article would not have been worthy of much consideration, if it had not been by a serving officer of the Canadian Army, and published in a semi-official publication of NATO. I don't think that anyone can dispute that the "General Military Review" is a semi-official NATO publication: its "Patronage Committee" includes every single prominent NATO commander from British Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer all the way to Wehrmacht General Speidel.

Capt. Badspeed

Canadian readers of "GERMAN REPORT" took up the question of Captain Goodspeed, and have been bombarding political leaders in Canada with queries about the article.

In response to one such query Mr Solon Low, national leader of the Social Credit Party, which has 19 seats in parliament, replied, "his article is an academic discussion" and claimed that the quotations given in GERMAN REPORT were torn from their context and distorted the meaning of Captain Goodspeed's article. If "a judicious assassination or two" appears academic to the Social Credit Party, then I don't understand the meaning of the word academic. If Mr Solon believes that GERMAN REPORT distorted the original article by tearing sentences from their context, it is up to him to prove it. I hereby offer him one full page of GERMAN REPORT, gratis and free of charge, to present his case. Now let's see what happens.

Canada is not the only country where Captain Goodspeed's article has received attention. I am glad to see that the London "Daily Herald", which is closely connected with the Labour Party, took up the question on March 13th. (The delay is unexplained: I can only suggest that the "Daily Herald" should read more carefully the copy of GERMAN REPORT which reaches its editorial offices regularly.) The London newspaper stated that Labour M. P.s regarded the article as disturbing and provocative, and announced that a question would be asked about it in the House of Commons in the near future. I am waiting anxiously to see what excuse they are going to come up with this time.

Provoking Boats

In the past GERMAN REPORT has drawn attention to the reorganisation of the West German navy, commanded of course by Hitler's old admirals. Now I have just come across the February 26th 1958 issue of "Isis", Oxford University student magazine, which prints an article with some bearing on the subject. Here are the relevant paragraphs:

"After the war a fleet of half-a-dozen exceedingly fast Mercedes-Benz torpedo-type boats were built, and, manned by sailors from Hitler's navy, were sent out under English captains to provoke and listen to the Russians.

"They would head straight for the Russian Fleet at exercise and circle round a battleship taking photographs.

"When they had succeeded in concentrating all the guns of the fleet and recorded enough messages they fled.

"When in Swedish waters, contrary to all international conventions, they flew Swedish flags.

"One British captain, who was suitably equipped with a wooden leg which lent a certain glamour to his Quixotic behaviour, so far exceeded the normal practice, which was merely to enter Russian territorial waters, as to go into Leningrad harbour, and on another occasion to land a small party in Russia.

"It is incredible that this should have been allowed, but the irresponsibility bred and sheltered by the Official Secrets Act is uncontrollable.

"In 1956 the new German navy took over the full control of these boats and are doubtless happily continuing our own policy."

(Incidentally the editors of "Isis" have now been interrogated by detectives about where they got the material for their article. It looks very much as though there must be something in it.)

Egging On

I am glad to be able to report progress in the egg field in the German Democratic Republic. Hitherto the state marketing authorities have clung with grim tenacity to the rather Gertrude Stein-ish view that an egg is an egg is an egg, quite irrespective of size. All hen eggs, whether the micro-ovum of an underprivileged hen, or the magnificent product of the very best layers, went on the market at one single fixed price. In addition the price did not budge downwards in summer when eggs were plentiful, nor upwards in winter when they were short.

This very stolid price-fixing did not matter much some years ago, when eggs were still in very short supply, but it has become increasingly untenable in recent times, when there have generally been plenty of eggs on the market. For years newspapers have been campaigning for a more realistic price policy, but the price-fixers only produced more excuses. I must say I sometimes had a sneaking suspicion that they were hoping for that glorious day when all hens would be properly planned and induced to lay eggs of exactly the same size.

But anyway, my suspicions have finally been dispelled: since the beginning of March eggs have been properly graded as to size, price, and season. What is even more welcome is the fact that the new prices for eggs, even the largest ones, is considerably lower than the price for the old "standard" eggs, which sometimes rolled around in the egg-cup like marbles, and sometimes bulged out of it like the average opera-singer.

Bow-wow

If you can bear just one more Sputnik crack, here it is: Remember the famous Soviet ballet called "Red Poppy"? A Soviet composer is reported to be planning a new ballet on Sputnik 2. Title? "Red Puppy".

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